

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5, and 8 are pending in this application. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) rejects claims 1, 2, 5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, asserting that the claims fail to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the PTO asserts that an amplifier having a gain that is "clamped regardless of a power level of the input signal," is a practical impossibility. Applicants amend claim 1 to delete the remainder of the sentence after the word "clamped." Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Diacou at the interview held May 9, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The PTO rejects claims 1, 2, 5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,356,685 to Kim et al. ("Kim"). Furthermore, claims 1, 2, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,466,385 to Bousselet et al. ("Bousselet").

Based upon the personal interview, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that amending claim 1 to recite "only one optical reflection means" would overcome the presently applied art. Claim 1 is amended as discussed. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable and withdrawal of the rejection over Kim and Bousselet is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 5, and 8 depend from independent claim 1 and are likewise patentable over Kim and Bousselet at least for their dependence on claim 1, an allowable base claim, as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2, 5, and 8 over Kim and Bousselet is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, and 8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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